

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference PCT3938	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/JP2004/012615	International filing date (day/month/year) 25.08.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 26.08.2003	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G06K19/077, G06F1/16, H05K5/02			
Applicant MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC INDUSTRIAL CO., LTD.			

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>5</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.
3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:
a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of <u>5</u> sheets, as follows: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions). <input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.
b. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) , containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).
4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/012615

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____ which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:

international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
 international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report):

the international application as originally filed/furnished
 the description:

pages 1, 2, 4-10 as originally filed/furnished

pages* 3, 3/1 received by this Authority on 11.04.2005

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the claims:

nos. 2-4 as originally filed/furnished

nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19

nos.* 1, 5, 6 received by this Authority on 11.04.2005

nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the drawings:

sheets fig. 1-3 as originally filed/furnished

sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____

sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____

a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages _____
 the claims, nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 the sequence listing (specify): _____
 any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

the description, pages _____
 the claims, nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 the sequence listing (specify): _____
 any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/012615

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-6	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims		YES
	Claims	1-6	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-6	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Document 1: JP 02-286399 A (Seiko Epson Corp.), 26

November 1990, entire text, all drawings

(Family: none)

The invention set forth in claim 1 does not involve an inventive step in the light of document 1 cited in the international search report. The "(device-side) metal plate (4)" (corresponding to the "tabular member") covers the entirety of the flat part of the (device-side) plastic frame, as is depicted at the bottom of the illustration in fig. 1 of document 1; therein, in as much as said metal plate covers the entirety of the flat part, said metal plate can naturally also be considered to cover a portion of said flat part. In addition, providing the elements in a grouped arrangement and providing a recessed part in a section of the plastic frame other than the section where the element relief holes are formed are merely design matters.

Likewise, the inventions set forth in claims 2 to 6 do not involve an inventive step in the light of document 1 cited in the international search report. The configurations of the inventions that are set forth in the claims in question do not include any significant

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International application No.

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Box No. V **Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

feature that can be found to involve an inventive step in relation to document 1.

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Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

The scope of the invention set forth in claim 1 includes a configuration in which only one "hole" is formed in the "flat part." However, in such a case the meaning of the disclosure indicating that this one "hole" is "formed in a grouped arrangement" is unclear.

The specific role of the "recessed part" is unclear.

The in-plane positional relationship of the "tabular member" and the "recessed part" that is formed in the "flat part" is unclear (i.e. it is unclear whether or not the items in question are stacked).

In other words, the relationship between the area that is delimited by the disclosure "one section of the flat part" and the area that is delimited by the disclosure "within a prescribed range in the flat part" is unclear.